

# *Juncus prismatocarpus*



**FAMILY:** JUNCACEAE

**BOTANICAL NAME:** *Juncus prismatocarpus*,  
R.Br., *Prodr.* 259 (1810)

**COMMON NAME:** Branching rush

**COMMONWEALTH STATUS:** (*EPBC Act*)  
Not Listed

**TASMANIAN STATUS:** (*TSP Act*) rare

*Juncus prismatocarpus*.  
Tasmanian Herbarium specimen.

## Description

A loosely tufted rush. **Underground parts:** The underground parts consist of a short, vertical stem. **Flowering stems:** The slightly flattened stems are erect, up to 60 cm high and between 1-2.5 mm in diameter. **Leaves:** The stalked leaves arise from the base and are flattened and hollow. The leaves are made up of several parallel tubes. **Seedheads:** The seedheads arise from the tips of the stems and are branched. The branches spread widely and the secondary branches have stalked heads. Flowering is most of the year (Flora of Victoria). **Capsules:** The capsules are narrow, egg-shaped, but triangular in cross-section and gradually taper at the ends. They are straw or rust coloured (description from Curtis & Morris 1994, Jessop *et al.* 1986). Herbarium specimens have been collected from December to March.

## Distribution and Habitat

This species occurs in every Australian State except for the Northern Territory. It is also known from Asia and New Zealand. In Tasmania, *Juncus prismatocarpus* is found occasionally in swampy places in various places in the State, including Maria Island (Curtis & Morris 1994, TSU records 2003).

## Key Sites and Populations

Key sites include Earham Lagoon (between McGuinness Creek and Pine Hut Creek on Maria Island), Bloodstone Lagoon (Maria Island), Derwent River, South Esk River at Perth, Westbury, Perth River, Corinna, Ulverstone, Weldborough, Brumbys Creek (near Cressy), south of Yolla on Waratah Road, Egmont and Waratah.

### Known Reserves

Reserved in the Maria Island National Park, Pieman River State Reserve and the Sandspit River Private Sanctuary.

### Ecology and Management

A lack of recent records in the north of the State are suggestive of a decline in the distribution of the species.

Wind is the most likely pollination vector for this species (A. Hingston pers. comm.).

### Conservation Status Assessment

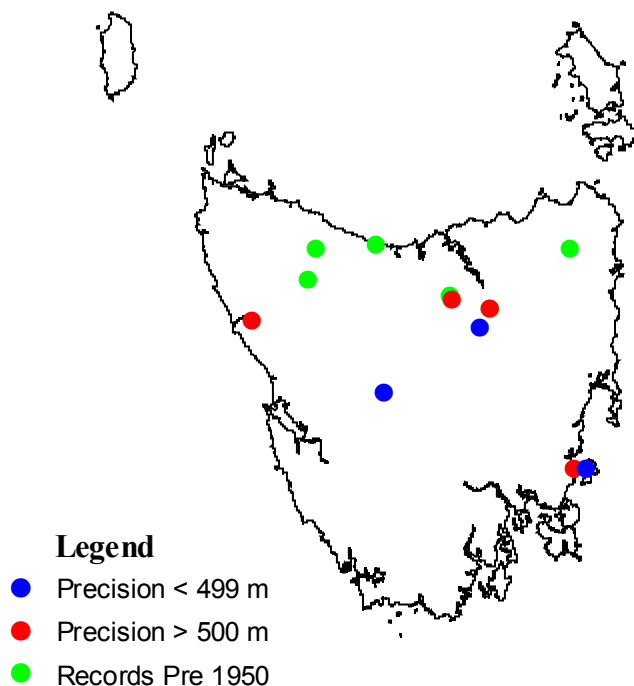
Reassessment of *Juncus prismatocarpus* may be warranted though more information may be required for a meaningful reassessment.

### Further Information

- Curtis, WM & Morris, DI 1994, *The Student's Flora of Tasmania*, Part 4B, Printing Authority of Tasmania, Hobart.
- Jessop, JP & Toelken, HR 1986, *Flora of South Australia, Part IV (Alismataceae to Orchidaceae)*, South Australian Printing Division, Adelaide.

### Tasmanian Distribution

(As per Threatened Species Unit records, June 2003)



### 1:25 000 Map Sheets

Cressy, Guildford, Hardwicke, Longford, Riedle, Ringarooma, Rufus, Sandspit, Tewkesbury, Ulverstone, Westbury.

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